

# Healthcare Reform for a Stronger Colorado

## Values Statement

### About the Healthcare Reform for a Stronger Colorado Coalition

Healthcare Reform for a Stronger Colorado is a coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations and individuals who are committed to improving the health of all Coloradans by reforming the health system. We established a core set of values and principles that we believe should be used as a basis for developing, evaluating, promoting and implementing health care reform proposals in Colorado.

### Core Values and Principles of the Coalition

Our core values and principles are based on nationally recognized standards for a health care system developed by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). We have expanded upon the IOM principles to provide a local context for health care reform in Colorado.

1. **Coverage.** Health care coverage must be:
  - a. Universal, meaning available to all Coloradans;
  - b. Continuous, meaning without gaps in coverage;
  - c. Affordable to employers, individuals and families; and
  - d. Adequate to meet the comprehensive health needs of all populations.
2. **Strategy.** The health insurance strategy must be:
  - a. Attainable; and
  - b. Sustainable - meaning:
    - i. efficiencies are sought;
    - ii. there is adequate financing and cost savings for both the public and private sectors of the health system; and
    - iii. health care capacity is aligned to serve the health needs of the population and maximize cost effectiveness.
3. **Health, Wellness and Prevention.** Colorado's health system must enhance health, wellness and promote prevention by providing quality services and education that incentivizes and empowers Coloradans to make lifestyle and behavioral choices that improve health outcomes, reduce disease and save health resources.
4. **Quality.** Quality health care is defined as:
  - a. Effective - meaning that it encourages evidence-based care/interventions, where appropriate, to provide the best possible outcomes in patient care;
  - b. Accountable - meaning it utilizes meaningful data, research, technology and best practices to provide useable information and transparency to Coloradans.
  - c. Efficient - meaning that care is coordinated and proactively managed in order to ensure quality services are delivered to Coloradans and generate cost savings to the system;
  - d. Patient- and family-centered - meaning that it:
    - i. engages the patient in decisions about their health care,
    - ii. respects patients' time, values and treatment choices, and
    - iii. provides information and services that are culturally sensitive;
  - e. Safe;
  - f. Timely; and
  - g. Equitable.

5. **Access.** Colorado's health system must:
  - a. Provide culturally competent health services;
  - b. Eliminate barriers and disparities; and
  - c. Ensure capacity in the system to provide reliable and comprehensible information and timely health care.
6. **Coordinated and Integrated Health Services.** Health is improved when services are delivered in an integrated model or coordinated through a health care home and when guided by best practices such as the Chronic Care Model (proven to better patient health while bringing cost savings to the health care system, including for children and adults with special health care needs and distinct populations).
7. **Safety Net.** Strengthening the safety net both enhances the health care home concept and increases access to quality care.
8. **Public and Environmental Health Status.** Public health is key to meaningful health system reform because it uses a population-based approach and ensures a healthy, sustainable environment.

### **Background on the Coalition**

The Healthcare Reform for a Stronger Colorado Coalition formed to establish common standards for statewide health care reform, initially in response to the creation of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform. The Commission was created by the State of Colorado to study and establish health care reform models for expanding coverage, especially for the underinsured and uninsured, and to decrease health care costs for Colorado residents. The Commission is charged with:

- Examining health coverage and reform models designed to ensure access to affordable coverage for all Colorado residents;
- Soliciting comprehensive reform proposals from interested parties;
- Selecting between three and five proposals for in-depth technical assessment by an independent contractor;
- Holding meetings around the state to solicit public input; and
- Completing a final report with recommendations to the General Assembly by November 30, 2007.

The Commission's goal is to increase coverage and reduce cost and has adopted the following principles to guide its work:

- Protect and improve the health status of all Coloradans;
- Expand coverage of essential health care services for all Coloradans, with an emphasis on the uninsured and underinsured;
- Align incentives to provide high-quality, cost-effective and coordinated care;
- Support a system that is financially viable, sustainable and fair;
- Provide opportunities for meaningful choice and encourage personal responsibility; and
- Emphasize wellness, prevention, health education and consumer empowerment.

### **List of Supporting Organizations**

The undersigned believe these values are critical for reform and are imperative to use in evaluating reform proposals that are submitted to the Commission:

	<i>Healthcare Reform for a Stronger Colorado</i>
	<b>Values Statement Signers</b>
	Organization
1	American Cancer Society, Great West Division, Inc.
2	American Lung Association of Colorado
3	Clinica Campesina
4	Colorado Access
5	Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials
6	Colorado Behavioral Health Council
7	Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
8	Colorado Children's Campaign
9	Colorado Community Health Network
10	Colorado Public Health Association
11	Denver Health
12	Doctors Care
13	Health District of Northern Larimer County
14	High Plains Community Health Center
15	Metro Community Provider Network
16	Mountain Family Health Centers
17	Peak Vista Community Health Center
18	People's Clinic
19	Public Health Directors of Colorado
20	Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado
21	Pueblo Community Health Center
22	Rocky Mountain Health Plans
23	Salud Family Health Centers
24	Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
25	The Children's Hospital
26	University of Colorado Hospital